

Iowa Prairie Network Newsletter Summer 2018



Learn, Teach, Enjoy

Submitted by Tenlea Turner

Iowa Prairie Network's mission statement is to learn about, teach about, enjoy, and protect Iowa's prairie heritage. Throughout the year each of the 7 regions organize events to do just that. Some of the events are large, like Region 5's Winter Seminar, and draw attendees from across the state and beyond, but most are intimate gatherings of local prairie enthusiasts. These regional events offer the perfect opportunity to explore the prairie gems that exist right outside your own backyard. Meet local experts, learn from their knowledge and experience, get involved in stewardship activities, or just enjoy the company of some really great people. Check out our Calendar of Events at www.iowaprairienetwork.org for events in your region (see page 2 for region map). Come join us on the prairie.

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2018 Summer Events

Upcoming Events – check the IPN calendar for details, updates and more events! www.iowaprairienetwork.org

June	1 – 3	2018 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar
	9	Big Sand Mound Field Day
	9	INPS Field Trip to Cedar River Crossing (CRC) and Ciha Fen Preserve
	12	IPN Region 4 prairie walk at Hitchcock Nature Center
	22 – 23	Bioblitz at Nahant Marsh
	23	Prairie Walk at Bobwhite State Park, Wayne County
	23	First Day Hikes - Summer Hike at Stone State Park
	28	Doolittle Prairie Walk
	30	IPN Region 4 Denisen Prairie field trip
	30	INPS Field Trip and Annual Meeting at Cordova County Park in Marion County
July	7 – 10	2018 North American Prairie Conference – Houston, TX Rescheduled for 2019
	7	Nature Hike at Thomas Mitchell Park in Polk County
	10	IPN Region 4 prairie walk at a private property near Glenwood
	14	NPS Field Trip at Paule Preserve near Winterset, Iowa
	17 -19	Cyperaceae and Juncaceae Identification Workshop
	22	Monarch and Milkweed Monitoring at Slip Bluff County Park, Decatur County
	26	Doolittle Prairie Walk
August	7 – 9	Grass Identification & Ecology Workshop
	14	IPN Region 4 prairie walk at Old Town Conservation Area, Missouri Valley
	23	Doolittle Prairie Walk
	25	INPS field trip to Patton Prairie in Buchanan County (northeast Iowa)

Details of the events listed can be found at www.iowaprairienetwork.org



Prairie Highlight



Let's Think About Mowing

Submitted by Tenlea Turner

With mowing season upon us it's time to start thinking about how our mowing practices impact invertebrates in general, and monarchs and other pollinators in particular. Mowing is one of many tools used to manage prairie, roadsides, and grassy areas to control weedy or woody plant species. The objective may be to improve diversity, prevent the onset of undesirable seed heads in restoration projects, or to improve safety along roadsides. Although it is an effective tool in these applications, when and how you mow can be detrimental to insects and increase mortality.

Timing is everything. Mowing at the wrong time can destroy eggs and larvae, or eliminate vital food sources, and nesting or sheltering habitat. Monarch Joint Venture (MJV) has an excellent written resource that can guide you through the preferred timing of your mowing activities. Their downloadable handout contains a regional map of recommended timeframes. Some of their other recommendations include: avoid mowing the entire habitat; leave areas of leaf litter and other ground cover; avoid peak times of reproduction and migration; avoid native plants; mow at a slower speed; increase cutting height, and avoid night time mowing. For more details on this topic go the MJV website:

<https://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/MowingForMonarchs.pdf>

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Pollinator photos by Tenlea Turner



"..even the insects in my path are not loafers, but have their special errands".

– Henry David Thoreau, 1906

IPN has 137 members that share an enthusiasm for prairies! Consider joining today!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Email: _____

Phone (optional): _____ Circle one: home - work - cell

Membership Levels & Dues (check one):

- Student Free; *please provide a valid school email address or ID*
- Intern \$10
- Individual \$20
- Family \$30

Newsletter Options (check one):

- Prefer to receive newsletters via e-mail at the address listed above \$0
- Prefer to receive printed newsletters via mail add \$5

IPN is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization

Please make checks payable to:

Iowa Prairie Network
 c/o Edward M. Sibley, Treas. 4015 Sergeant Road, Sioux City, IA 51106
The membership form can also be downloaded from our website – click “Join Us”



Have you registered your prairie or garden with Plant.Grow.Fly. yet?



Let's get down and dirty, plant the seeds and watch them grow and fly! Blank Park Zoo is offering discounted zoo membership to PGF Gardeners when they register their garden!

www.plantgrowfly.org

Don't forget to **RENEW** your membership! Go to www.iowaprairienetwork.org.
Thank you!

The Iowa Prairie Network is a grass-roots, volunteer organization that is dedicated to the preservation of Iowa's prairie heritage. IPN was formed in 1990 by Iowans concerned that our prairie heritage was disappearing. People needed an organization that would bring those who know about prairie together with those who wanted to learn, to form a network of advocacy for Iowa's natural heritage.

Speaking of local events – The first 2018 meeting of IPN Region 6 members was held on March 3rd at Pioneer Ridge Nature Area south of Ottumwa. Kurt Baker, Wapello County Conservation Board director, graciously welcomed our group and made sure everything went smoothly. The meeting started at noon with a potluck lunch and was followed with a presentation by Dan Mays, Lifetime Master Gardener from Scott County. Dan shared his insight in incorporating native plants into landscape design. His presentation was informative as well as entertaining, and we greatly appreciate his time and expertise. It was a bit chilly for attendees to take advantage of the trail system, but they did enjoy browsing through the impressive nature scenes and historic displays within the facility. Local artist Dori Lewman was working on a project for the Conservation Board and took time to talk with us about it. At the close of the meeting Region 6 members scheduled the monthly events for 2018. There are some exciting adventures on the horizon. To top off the day's activities, The RARE Group (Raptor Advocacy Rehabilitation and Education) had a scheduled presentation on birds of prey and attendees were invited to join in after the IPN meeting dismissed. It was a fun and full day, and our thanks go out to Kurt, Dan, and all the others that contributed to the success of the event.



Region 4 Details at www.iowaprairienetwork.org

Second Tuesday Prairie Walks
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

June 12 - Hitchcock Nature Center, Crescent

July 10 - Ed May's (private land), Glenwood

Aug 14 - Old Town Conservation Area, Missouri Valley

Sept 11 - Folsom Point Preserve, Council Bluffs

June 30 - Dinesen Prairie State Preserve Prairie Walk 9 am - noon



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IPN's Mission: To Learn About, Teach About, Enjoy, and Protect Iowa's Prairie Heritage

Summer 2018

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We use our Facebook Page and Group to share prairie-related news and updates. Join our online community!



www.facebook.com/iowaPrairieNetwork



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